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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

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JOSEFINO MORALES FORTIZ, *individually*  
*and on behalf of others similarly situated,*

*Plaintiff,*

**COMPLAINT**

-against-

HARU HOLDING, CORP (D/B/A HARU  
SUSHI) and STEVEN LAY ,

**COLLECTIVE ACTION UNDER  
29 U.S.C. § 216(b)**

**ECF Case**

*Defendants.*

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Plaintiff Josefino Morales Fortiz (“Plaintiff Morales” or “Mr. Morales”), individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, by and through his attorneys, Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C., upon his knowledge and belief, and as against Haru Holding, Corp (d/b/a Haru Sushi), (“Defendant Corporation”) and Steven Lay, (“Individual Defendant”), (collectively, “Defendants”), alleges as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. Plaintiff Morales is a former employee of Defendants Haru Holding, Corp (d/b/a Haru Sushi) and Steven Lay.
2. Defendants own, operate, or control a Japanese Restaurant, located at 433 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10024 under the name “Haru Sushi”.

3. Upon information and belief, individual Defendant Steven Lay, serve or served as owner, manager, principal, or agent of Defendant Corporation and, through this corporate entity, operates or operated the restaurant as a joint or unified enterprise.

4. Plaintiff Morales was employed as a delivery worker at the restaurant located at 433 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10024.

5. Plaintiff Morales was ostensibly employed as a delivery worker. However, starting in March 2020, he was required to spend a considerable part of his work day performing non-tipped duties, including but not limited to cutting boxes for deliveries, making salads, making wasabi, filling up dressings and cleaning the sidewalk outside of the restaurant (hereafter the “non-tipped duties”).

6. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff Morales worked for Defendants in excess of 40 hours per week, without appropriate minimum wage and overtime compensation for the hours that he worked.

7. Rather, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Morales appropriately for any hours worked, either at the straight rate of pay or for any additional overtime premium.

8. Defendants employed and accounted for Plaintiff Morales as a delivery worker in their payroll, but in actuality his duties required a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties alleged above.

9. Regardless, at all relevant times, Defendants paid Plaintiff Morales at a rate that was lower than the required tip-credit rate.

10. However, under both the FLSA and NYLL, Defendants were not entitled to take a tip credit because Plaintiff Morales’s non-tipped duties starting on March 2020 exceeded 20% of each workday, or 2 hours per day, whichever is less in each day. 12 N.Y. C.R.R. §146.

11. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed the policy and practice of disguising Plaintiff Morales's actual duties in payroll records by designating him as a delivery worker instead of as a non-tipped employee. This allowed Defendants to avoid paying Plaintiff Morales at the minimum wage rate and enabled them to pay him at the tip-credit rate (which they still failed to do).

12. Defendants' conduct extended beyond Plaintiff Morales to all other similarly situated employees.

13. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Morales and other employees to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week without providing the minimum wage and overtime compensation required by federal and state law and regulations.

14. Plaintiff Morales now brings this action on behalf of himself, and other similarly situated individuals, for unpaid minimum and overtime wages pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* ("FLSA"), and for violations of the N.Y. Labor Law §§ 190 *et seq.* and 650 *et seq.* (the "NYLL"), including applicable liquidated damages, interest, attorneys' fees and costs.

15. Plaintiff Morales seeks certification of this action as a collective action on behalf of himself, individually, and all other similarly situated employees and former employees of Defendants pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) and the FLSA, and supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff Morales's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

17. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) because all, or a substantial portion of, the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district, Defendants maintain their corporate headquarters and offices within this district, and Defendants operate a Japanese Restaurant located in this district. Further, Plaintiff Morales was employed by Defendants in this district.

### **PARTIES**

#### *Plaintiff*

18. Plaintiff Josefino Morales Fortiz (“Plaintiff Morales” or “Mr. Morales”) is an adult individual residing in Bronx County, New York.

19. Plaintiff Morales was employed by Defendants at Haru Sushi from approximately May 12, 2017 until on or about April 8, 2021.

20. Plaintiff Morales consents to being a party plaintiff pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and brings these claims based upon the allegations herein as a representative party of a prospective class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

#### *Defendants*

21. At all relevant times, Defendants owned, operated, or controlled a Japanese Restaurant, located at 433 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10024 under the name “Haru Sushi”.

22. Upon information and belief, Haru Holding, Corp (d/b/a Haru Sushi) is a domestic corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. Upon information and belief, it maintains its principal place of business at 433 Amsterdam Avenue New York, NY 10024.

23. Defendant Steven Lay is an individual engaging (or who was engaged) in business in this judicial district during the relevant time period. Defendant Steven Lay is sued individually in his capacity as a manager of Defendant Corporation. Defendant Steven Lay possesses operational

control over Defendant Corporation and controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation. He determines the wages and compensation of the employees of Defendants, including Plaintiff Morales, establishes the schedules of the employees, maintains employee records, and has the authority to hire and fire employees.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### *Defendants Constitute Joint Employers*

24. Defendants operate a Japanese Restaurant located in the Upper West Side section of Manhattan in New York City.

25. Individual Defendant, Steven Lay, possesses operational control over Defendant Corporation, possesses ownership interests in Defendant Corporation, or controls significant functions of Defendant Corporation.

26. Defendants are associated and joint employers, act in the interest of each other with respect to employees, pay employees by the same method, and share control over the employees.

27. Each Defendant possessed substantial control over Plaintiff Morales's (and other similarly situated employees') working conditions, and over the policies and practices with respect to the employment and compensation of Plaintiff Morales, and all similarly situated individuals, referred to herein.

28. Defendants jointly employed Plaintiff Morales (and all similarly situated employees) and are Plaintiff Morales's (and all similarly situated employees') employers within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.* and the NYLL.

29. In the alternative, Defendants constitute a single employer of Plaintiff Morales and/or similarly situated individuals.

30. Upon information and belief, Individual Defendant operates Defendant Corporation as either an alter ego of himself and/or fails to operate Defendant Corporation as an entity legally separate and apart from himself, by among other things:

- a) failing to adhere to the corporate formalities necessary to operate Defendant Corporation as a Corporation,
- b) defectively forming or maintaining the corporate entity of Defendant Corporation, by, amongst other things, failing to hold annual meetings or maintaining appropriate corporate records,
- c) transferring assets and debts freely as between all Defendants,
- d) operating Defendant Corporation for his own benefit as the sole or majority shareholder,
- e) operating Defendant Corporation for his own benefit and maintaining control over this corporation as a closed Corporation,
- f) intermingling assets and debts of his own with Defendant Corporation,
- g) diminishing and/or transferring assets of Defendant Corporation to avoid full liability as necessary to protect his own interests, and
- h) Other actions evincing a failure to adhere to the corporate form.

31. At all relevant times, Defendants were Plaintiff Morales's employers within the meaning of the FLSA and New York Labor Law. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Morales, controlled the terms and conditions of employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for Plaintiff Morales's services.

32. In each year from 2017 to 2021, Defendants, both separately and jointly, had a gross annual volume of sales of not less than \$500,000 (exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level that are separately stated).

33. In addition, upon information and belief, Defendants and/or their enterprise were directly engaged in interstate commerce. As an example, numerous items that were used in the restaurant on a daily basis are goods produced outside of the State of New York.

*Individual Plaintiff*

34. Plaintiff Morales is a former employee of Defendants who ostensibly was employed as delivery worker. However, he spent over 20% of each shift performing the non-tipped duties described above.

35. Plaintiff Morales seeks to represent a class of similarly situated individuals under 29 U.S.C. 216(b).

*Plaintiff Josefino Morales Fortiz*

36. Plaintiff Morales was employed by Defendants from approximately May 12, 2017 until on or about April 8, 2021.

37. Defendants ostensibly employed Plaintiff Morales as a delivery worker.

38. However, Plaintiff Morales was required to spend a significant portion of his work day performing the non-tipped duties described above.

39. Although Plaintiff Morales ostensibly was employed as a delivery worker, he spent over 20% of each day performing non-tipped work with Defendants.

40. Plaintiff Morales regularly handled goods in interstate commerce, such as food and other supplies produced outside the State of New York.

41. Plaintiff Morales's work duties required neither discretion nor independent judgment.

42. From approximately May 12, 2017 until on or about August 2018, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 6:00 p.m. until on or about 11:45 p.m., 4 days a week and from approximately 5:30 p.m. until on or about 10:30 p.m., 3 days a week (typically 32.75 hours per week).

For two weeks of each month from approximately September 2018 until on or about March 15, 2020, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 3:30 p.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., 5 days a week (typically 23.75 hours per week).

For two weeks of each month from approximately September 2018 until on or about March 15, 2020, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 4:30 p.m. until on or about 9:45 p.m., 5 days a week (typically 22.5 hours per week).

43. From approximately March 16, 2020 until on or about June 2020, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 3:00 p.m. until on or about 9:00 p.m., 5 days a week (typically 26.25 hours per week).

44. From approximately July 2020 until on or about December 2020, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 11:30 a.m. until on or about 4:30 p.m., 5 days a week and from approximately 6:15 p.m. until on or about 9:45 p.m., 5 days a week (typically 38.75 hours per week).

45. From approximately January 2021 until on or about April 8, 2021, Plaintiff Morales worked from approximately 11:30 a.m. until on or about 4:00 p.m., 5 days a week and from approximately 5:00 p.m. until on or about 8:30 p.m., 5 days a week (typically 40 hours per week).

46. Throughout his employment, Defendants paid Plaintiff Morales his wages by direct deposit.

47. From approximately May 2017 until on or about April 2018, Defendants paid Plaintiff Morales \$8.50 an hour.



48. From approximately May 2018 until on or about December 2018, Defendants paid Plaintiff Morales \$10.50 an hour.

49. From approximately January 2019 until on or about April 2021, Defendants paid Plaintiff Morales \$12.50 an hour.

50. Plaintiff Morales's pay did not vary even when he was required to stay later or work a longer day than his usual schedule.

51. For example, from approximately March 2020 until on or about June 2020, Defendants required Plaintiff Morales to work an additional 30 minutes past his scheduled departure time 4 days a week, and did not pay him for the additional time he worked.

52. Although defendants granted Plaintiff Morales a 45-minute meal break, they constantly interrupted it by requiring him to stop eating and get work done.

53. Plaintiff Morales was never notified by Defendants that his tips were being included as an offset for wages.

54. Defendants did not account for these tips in any daily or weekly accounting of Plaintiff Morales's wages.

55. in order to get paid, Plaintiff Morales was required to sign a document which only had his name and address.

56. Defendants did not give any notice to Plaintiff Morales, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Morales's primary language), of his rate of pay, employer's regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).

57. Defendants required Plaintiff Morales to purchase "tools of the trade" with his own funds—including a bicycle and monthly maintenance expenses for the bicycle.

*Defendants' General Employment Practices*

58. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Defendants maintained a policy and practice of requiring Plaintiff Morales (and all similarly situated employees) to work in excess of 40 hours a week without paying him appropriate minimum wage and overtime compensation as required by federal and state laws.

59. Plaintiff Morales was a victim of Defendants' common policy and practices which violate his rights under the FLSA and New York Labor Law by, *inter alia*, not paying him the wages he was owed for the hours he worked.

60. Defendants' pay practices resulted in Plaintiff Morales not receiving payment for all his hours worked, and resulted in Plaintiff Morales's effective rate of pay falling below the required minimum wage rate.

61. Defendants habitually required Plaintiff Morales to work additional hours beyond his regular shifts but did not provide him with any additional compensation.

62. Defendants required Plaintiff Morales and all other delivery workers to perform general non-tipped tasks in addition to their primary duties as delivery workers.

63. Plaintiff Morales and all similarly situated employees, ostensibly were employed as tipped employees by Defendants, although their actual duties included a significant amount of time spent performing the non-tipped duties outlined above.

64. Plaintiff Morales's duties were not incidental to his occupation as a tipped worker, but instead constituted entirely unrelated general restaurant work with duties, including the non-tipped duties described above.

65. Plaintiff Morales and all other tipped workers were paid at a rate that was lower than the required lower tip-credit rate by Defendants.

66. However, under state law, Defendants were not entitled to a tip credit because the tipped worker's and Plaintiff Morales's non-tipped duties exceeded 20% of each workday (or 2 hours a day, whichever is less) (12 N.Y.C.R.R. § 146).

67. New York State regulations provide that an employee cannot be classified as a tipped employee on any day in which he or she has been assigned to work in an occupation in which tips are not customarily received. (12 N.Y.C.R.R. §§137-3.3 and 137-3.4). Similarly, under federal regulation 29 C.F.R. §531.56(e), an employer may not take a tip credit for any employee time if that time is devoted to a non-tipped occupation.

68. In violation of federal and state law as codified above, Defendants classified Plaintiff Morales and other tipped workers as tipped employees, and paid them at a rate that was lower than the required lower tip-credit rate when they should have classified them as non-tipped employees and paid them at the minimum wage rate.

69. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Morales who received tips that Defendants intended to take a deduction against Plaintiff Morales's earned wages for tip income, as required by the NYLL before any deduction may be taken.

70. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiff Morales who received tips, that his tips were being credited towards the payment of the minimum wage.

71. Defendants failed to maintain a record of tips earned by Plaintiff Morales who worked as a delivery worker for the tips he received.

72. Upon information and belief, these practices by Defendants were done willfully to disguise the actual number of hours Plaintiff Morales (and similarly situated individuals) worked, and to avoid paying Plaintiff Morales properly for his full hours worked.

73. Defendants engaged in their unlawful conduct pursuant to a corporate policy of minimizing labor costs and denying employees compensation by knowingly violating the FLSA and NYLL.

74. Defendants' unlawful conduct was intentional, willful, in bad faith, and caused significant damages to Plaintiff Morales and other similarly situated former workers.

75. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Morales and other employees with accurate wage statements at the time of their payment of wages, containing: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL §195(3).

76. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Morales and other employees, at the time of hiring and on or before February 1 of each subsequent year, a statement in English and the employees' primary language, containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by New York Labor Law §195(1).

#### **FLSA COLLECTIVE ACTION CLAIMS**

77. Plaintiff Morales brings his FLSA minimum wage, overtime compensation, and liquidated damages claims as a collective action pursuant to FLSA Section 16(b), 29 U.S.C. § 216(b),

on behalf of all similarly situated persons (the “FLSA Class members”), i.e., persons who are or were employed by Defendants or any of them, on or after the date that is three years before the filing of the complaint in this case (the “FLSA Class Period”).

78. At all relevant times, Plaintiff Morales and other members of the FLSA Class were similarly situated in that they had substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, and have been subject to Defendants’ common practices, policies, programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay them the required minimum wage and overtime pay at a one and one-half their regular rates for work in excess of forty (40) hours per workweek under the FLSA under the FLSA.

79. The claims of Plaintiff Morales stated herein are similar to those of the other employees.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA**

80. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

81. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Morales’s employers within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d). Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class Members), controlled the terms and conditions of their employment, and determined the rate and method of any compensation in exchange for their employment.

82. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

83. Defendants constitute an enterprise within the meaning of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 203 (r-s).

84. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206(a).

85. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members) at the applicable minimum hourly rate was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

86. Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

### **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS OF THE FLSA**

87. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

88. Defendants, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1), failed to pay Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members) overtime compensation at a rate of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

89. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members), overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a).

90. Plaintiff Morales (and the FLSA Class members) were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

### **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK MINIMUM WAGE ACT**

91. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

92. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were Plaintiff Morales's employers within the meaning of the N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 2 and 651. Defendants had the power to hire and fire Plaintiff Morales, controlled the terms and conditions of his employment, and determined the rates and methods of any compensation in exchange for his employment.

93. Defendants, in violation of NYLL § 652(1) and the supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, paid Plaintiff Morales less than the minimum wage.

94. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Morales the minimum wage was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

95. Plaintiff Morales was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **VIOLATION OF THE OVERTIME PROVISIONS**

##### **OF THE NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW**

96. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

97. Defendants, in violation of N.Y. Lab. Law § 190 *et seq.*, and supporting regulations of the New York State Department of Labor, failed to pay Plaintiff Morales overtime compensation at rates of one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of forty hours in a work week.

98. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff Morales overtime compensation was willful within the meaning of N.Y. Lab. Law § 663.

99. Plaintiff Morales was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### **VIOLATION OF THE NOTICE AND RECORDKEEPING**

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

100. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

101. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Morales with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiff Morales's primary language), containing: the rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of the employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; and the telephone number of the employer, as required by NYLL §195(1).

102. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Morales in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

**SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

**VIOLATION OF THE WAGE STATEMENT PROVISIONS**

**OF THE NEW YORK LABOR LAW**

103. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

104. With each payment of wages, Defendants failed to provide Plaintiff Morales with an accurate statement listing each of the following: the dates of work covered by that payment of wages; name of employee; name of employer; address and phone number of employer; rate or rates of pay and basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; gross wages; deductions; allowances, if any, claimed as part of the minimum wage; net wages; the



regular hourly rate or rates of pay; the overtime rate or rates of pay; the number of regular hours worked; and the number of overtime hours worked, as required by NYLL 195(3).

105. Defendants are liable to Plaintiff Morales in the amount of \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

### **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **RECOVERY OF EQUIPMENT COSTS**

106. Plaintiff Morales repeats and realleges all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

107. Defendants required Plaintiff Morales to pay, without reimbursement, the costs and expenses for purchasing and maintaining equipment and "tools of the trade" required to perform his job, further reducing his wages in violation of the FLSA and NYLL. 29 U.S.C. § 206(a); 29 C.F.R. § 531.35; N.Y. Lab. Law §§ 193 and 198-b.

108. Plaintiff Morales was damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Morales respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment against Defendants by:

(a) Designating this action as a collective action and authorizing prompt issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all putative class members apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to promptly file consents to be Plaintiffs in the FLSA claims in this action;

(b) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members;

(c) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and associated rules and regulations under, the FLSA as to Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members;

(d) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the FLSA were willful as to Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members;

(e) Awarding Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage, overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable;

(f) Awarding Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members liquidated damages in an amount equal to 100% of his damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and damages for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages under the FLSA as applicable pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b);

(g) Declaring that Defendants violated the minimum wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Morales;

(h) Declaring that Defendants violated the overtime wage provisions of, and rules and orders promulgated under, the NYLL as to Plaintiff Morales;

(i) Declaring that Defendants violated the notice requirements of the NYLL with respect to Plaintiff Morales's compensation, hours, wages and any deductions or credits taken against wages;

(j) Declaring that Defendants' violations of the provisions of the NYLL were willful as to Plaintiff Morales;

(k) Awarding Plaintiff Morales damages for the amount of unpaid minimum wage and overtime compensation, and for any improper deductions or credits taken against wages as

applicable

(l) Awarding Plaintiff Morales damages for Defendants' violation of the NYLL notice provisions, pursuant to NYLL §§198(1-b), 198(1-d);

(m) Awarding Plaintiff Morales liquidated damages in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of minimum wage and overtime compensation shown to be owed pursuant to NYLL § 663 as applicable; and liquidated damages pursuant to NYLL § 198(3);

(n) Awarding Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as applicable;

(o) Awarding Plaintiff Morales and the FLSA Class members the expenses incurred in this action, including costs and attorneys' fees;

(p) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL § 198(4); and

(q) All such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Morales demands a trial by jury on all issues triable by a jury.

Dated: New York, New York

May 19, 2021

MICHAEL FAILLACE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: /s/ Michael Faillace  
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Employment and Litigation Attorneys

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Faillace@employmentcompliance.com

April 26, 2021

BY HAND

TO: Clerk of Court,

I hereby consent to join this lawsuit as a party plaintiff.

**(Yo, por medio de este documento, doy mi consentimiento para formar parte de la demanda como uno de los demandantes.)**

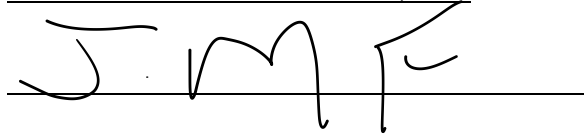
Name / Nombre:

Josefino Morales Fortiz

Legal Representative / Abogado:

Michael Faillace & Associates, P.C.

Signature / Firma:



Date / Fecha:

26 de abril 2021